

REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Title of Publication: Resident Evil: Apocalypse

Other Known Title: Resident Evil 2

Format: Film 35mm

Director/Author: Alexander Witt

Producer/Publisher: Dan Carmody, Paul W.S. Anderson, Jeremy Bolt

Country of Origin: Canada, UK

Language: English

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 13 years.
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Descriptive Note: Violence, horror scenes and offensive language.

Display Conditions: Nil.

Date of entry in Register: 25 January 2005

Date of direction to issue a label: 25 January 2005

Applicant: Secretary for Internal Affairs

Applicant to the Labelling Body: Not Applicable.

OFLC No: 402076

Unexcised version of publication:

	Components	Running time
Feature:	Resident Evil: Apocalypse	94.52
Other timed components:		
Total running time:		94.52

Excisions: Not Applicable.

Reasons for excisions:

Not Applicable.

Summary of reasons for classification:

The film *Resident Evil: Apocalypse* is classified as:
Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 13 years.

The film screened in New Zealand cinemas in late 2004 with a rating of "Unrestricted: Suitable for mature audiences 16 years of age and over" (M) assigned by the Film and Video Labelling Body. The Labelling Body had determined that the feature was identical to the feature rated "M"¹ by the Australian Classification Office and under statutory regulations was required to give the feature a New Zealand "M" rating. The Chief Censor directed the Secretary of Internal Affairs to submit the film for classification by the Office of Film and Literature Classification in response to complaints from members of the public about the rating of the film and his subsequent investigation suggesting the Australian rating is anomalous in light of ratings or classifications in other jurisdictions.

The film contains horror and extensive violence that is sufficiently gory and frightening to be likely to disturb and upset children. There is an obvious lack of realism to the story, however, and the violence is often part of sensational, dramatic scenes that cut away from showing injury of victims. Where injury is shown, such as depictions of bloody, raw wounds, the images are fleeting. The film's themes and storyline are pitched at a general audience. It is particularly likely to appeal to teenagers.

The right to freedom of expression has been weighed against the likelihood of injury to the public good. The horror scenes and extensive violence make a restriction to persons 13 years of age and over necessary. This limitation on availability is reasonable, demonstrably justified and the minimum required to reduce the likelihood of injury arising from children viewing the film. A descriptive note of "Contains violence, horror scenes and offensive language" will provide cautionary advice to older viewers.

¹ Recommended for mature audiences 15 years and over. This is an advisory rating. It does not restrict people under the age of 15 years from viewing the film.